

# Coronavirus in Spain: Advice for British Travellers

Our travel advice is updated regularly and you can sign up for email alerts so you are notified when we add new information. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain>

You may also want to join our Brits in Spain Facebook page, where we post updates regularly, and where you can find a community that can also help answer specific questions.

The situation is fast moving and many people have had their travel plans and holidays disrupted.

## **Hotels**

### **Are hotels closing?**

Yes, the Spanish government has confirmed that hotel and short-term accommodation must close by midnight 26<sup>th</sup> March. Some hotels have begun closing already in different parts of Spain in response to the emergency measures. Our current advice is that British travellers who wish to return to the UK, should make plans to do so as soon as possible.

**Hotels will close by midnight 26th March. I don't have a flight or anywhere to go.**

### **What should I do?**

Our current advice is that British travellers who wish to return to the UK, should make plans to do so as soon as possible. You should look at your airline's website or other flight comparison websites (e.g. [skyscanner.net](http://skyscanner.net) / [lastminute.com](http://lastminute.com) / [gotogate.com](http://gotogate.com)) for further information to arrange travel back to the UK. You may need to be flexible about your destination airport in the UK and your preferred date/time of travel.

### **Am I going to be kicked out of my hotel?**

The Spanish authorities may ask British travellers to move hotels, as guests are being grouped into smaller numbers of hotels but the Spanish tourism authorities have

underlined that no-one will be left without accommodation. We advise British tourists in Spain who wish to return to the UK to make travel plans to do so as soon as possible.

**My hotel has closed but I don't have a flight back to the UK yet? I don't have anywhere to stay?**

Our current advice is that British travellers who wish to return to the UK, should make plans to do so as soon as possible. You should look at your airline's website or other flight comparison websites (e.g. [skyscanner.net](https://www.skyscanner.net) / [lastminute.com](https://www.lastminute.com) / [gotogate.com](https://www.gotogate.com)) for further information to arrange travel back to the UK. You may need to be flexible about your destination airport in the UK and preferred date/time of travel

There are still hotels open in most parts of Spain, but you may need to phone around or use hotel comparison websites (e.g. [lastminute.com](https://www.lastminute.com) / [booking.com](https://www.booking.com)) to find alternative accommodation, including self-catering options. The Spanish tourism authorities have said that no-one should be left without accommodation.

**Air travel**

**Can't get through to airline?**

Airlines and ferry companies are experiencing a high volume of calls. Check their websites for latest information or other flight comparison websites (e.g. [skyscanner.net](https://www.skyscanner.net) / [lastminute.com](https://www.lastminute.com) / [gotogate.com](https://www.gotogate.com)) for further information to arrange travel back to the UK. You may need to be flexible about your destination airport in the UK and your preferred date/time of travel.

We are working closely with airlines to ensure that flights continue to operate and that British nationals can get home as soon as possible.

**Can't afford flight back?**

In very exceptional circumstances, and as a last resort, the FCO may be able to provide an emergency loan from public funds to help you return home. This is discretionary and will only be considered if you have exhausted all other methods of getting funds.

## **Will you repatriate people back from Spain?**

Assisted departure will only be offered in the most exceptional circumstances. There remain commercial options for British tourists to return from Spain. British tourists in Spain should speak to their travel provider and follow the guidance of local authorities.

## **Ferries back to UK**

### **Can't get through to ferry company?**

Airlines and ferry companies are experiencing a high volume of calls. Check their website for latest information.

The last ferry from Spain is due to depart on from Santander on Saturday, 21 March. If you are not booked onto that ferry, you should make alternative arrangements to return to the UK. Please see our question on driving back to the UK.

## **British travellers in Spain**

### **Do the emergency measures apply to British travellers on holiday in Spain?**

Yes, they do. British travellers should follow the instructions of the local authorities. Anyone found to be breaching these instructions may be subject to action by the local authorities, including fines and possible arrest.

### **Can I drive to the airport?**

The emergency measures restrict travel within Spain, but travel to the airport to return to the UK is an accepted reason. You may need to provide evidence of your journey (i.e. plane ticket). Friends or family can also drive you to the airport, but should keep evidence of the reason (e.g. a photo of travel tickets in case stopped on the return home) and comply with the Police restrictions on travel.

We know that travel to airports is causing confusion, especially for those trying to take taxis, or travelling together. There are restrictions in place on vehicle occupancy and you might have to travel separately. Minors and disabled people can be accompanied on journeys to the airport.

### **I have a house in Spain. Can I stay in it or do I have to go back to the UK?**

If you are resident here for all or part of the year, rather than just visiting as a short-stay tourist, you can stay if you wish and your residential circumstances allow you to abide by the local instructions (eg cater for yourself etc). We advise UK nationals who wish to go back to the UK to do so as soon as possible. If you choose to stay now you should be aware that your travel options may become more limited in the coming weeks

## **Driving back to UK**

### **Can I drive back through France?**

Spain is not restricting land border crossings from Spain to France. To drive back through France, the French authorities require that you fill in a declaration to explain your reason for travel, you should also have evidence of your onward travel plan (ie ferry/rail ticket). Please check our travel advice page for France for the latest information. If you do not have access to the printer, you can write the declaration by hand. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/france>

You can also join our Brits in Spain Facebook community where we have drawn up a post including language for that form in French.

## **Healthcare and EHIC use in Spain**

- If you are temporarily in **the Balearics** and you need to see the doctor, please be reassured that the UK EHIC is still valid for the rest of 2020 and will cover you for any necessary treatment. **You must call 902 079 079 or 971 43 70 79 before** going to the healthcare centre for non-emergencies. The line is experiencing a lot of calls, please continue to ring. You will get through to someone. Due to Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak, you must follow the advice of local authorities, comply with self-isolation, testing or quarantine requirements. Please see [here](#) for details on gov.uk and [here](#) for further information from the Spanish authorities. The latest UK health advice is at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.
- If you don't have a UK EHIC and think you are entitled to one, please call 00 44 191 218 1999 for a replacement
- If you are temporarily in **Canary Islands** and you need to see the doctor, please be reassured that the UK EHIC is still valid for the rest of 2020 and will cover you for

any necessary treatment. **You must call 902111012 before** going to the healthcare centre for non-emergencies. The line is experiencing a lot of calls, please continue to ring. You will get through to someone. Due to Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak, you must follow the advice of local authorities, comply with self-isolation, testing or quarantine requirements. Please see [here](#) for details on gov.uk and [here](#) for further information from the Spanish authorities. The latest UK health advice is at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

- If you don't have a UK EHIC and think you are entitled to one, please call 00 44 191 218 1999 for a replacement

For the rest of Spain:

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### **Health advice on returning to the UK?**

Please look at the Public Health England guidance on gov.uk. We no longer have geographical limits to who gets tested and who we ask to self-isolate – this will just be based on symptoms and it is no longer relevant where someone has travelled from. Anyone who has any of the symptoms should use the [111 online coronavirus service](#) to find out what to do next and not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital

### **Vulnerable travellers**

The situation is fast moving and many people have had their travel plans and holidays disrupted.

Our priority is to provide assistance to those British nationals overseas that need our help the most. For example, that might include those who are elderly, or those with physical or mental health complications. If you consider that you, or your relatives, are particularly vulnerable and require assistance, please contact your local British Consulate for support.

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